GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
INDO- PAK MEET ON WULLAR BARRAGE
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan Water Secretaries met on Wullar barrage recently;

(b) whether Pakistan claims that the water flow in the lake would be obstructed once the barrage is constructed;

(c) if so, the main points discussed in the meeting;

(d) whether all the outstanding issues have been settled; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Pakistan is of the view that the barrage means a "man- made" obstruction to flow of Jhelum river and the obstruction will cause changes in the volume of daily flow of the waters.

(c) Indian Secretary referred to the talks held in August 1992 when Pakistan side had indicated that a draft agreement, comprehensively discussed and adjusted to address the concerns of Pakistan, was under the consideration of their Hon'ble Prime Minister, after which, in 1994, Pakistan side indicated that it was not correct that all technical and legal issues of the issue had been resolved at the previous rounds of talks and all aspects needed to be discussed comprehensively in accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty. Indian Secretary further stated that the Treaty provides for interference in the flow of the river restricted to Non-Consumptive Use, control or use of water for navigation provided the water remains in or is returned to the same river and Non-Consumptive Use without prejudice to the uses on the river by the other Party. Also that no man-made storage is involved in the project as the gates are completely lifted up so long as the lake level keeps rising, thus permitting the storage in the lake to occur under natural condition. Only when lake level starts receding below the designated level, gates are closed for controlled depletion to facilitate navigation without prejudice to downstream uses, ensuring that outflow is more than or equal to inflow.

Pakistan Secretary stated that no agreement or changes in the design of the project were finalized and in the case of an agreement having been finalized earlier, there would have been no reason for the meetings to continue for resolution. He further stated that the Treaty forbids any interference by India in the flow of Western Rivers to Pakistan and India should have no control over the waters meant for unrestricted use of Pakistan, except for certain specified uses allowed to India. Further, that the proposed barrage means a "man-made" obstruction to flow of Jhelum river and the obstruction will cause changes in the volume of daily flow of the waters. No storage is allowed to India on the main stem of river Jhelum and the storage incidental to the barrage on Jhelum Main should not exceed 10,000 Acre Feet. Holding the waters in a particular period or season and releasing it in a subsequent period or season cannot be regarded as a control for Non-Consumptive Use of waters. Pakistan Secretary also stated that the viability of the navigation project is not established.

(d) No.

(e) Technical experts from both the sides discussed the issues and the views of both the sides were recorded. The two sides agreed to continue the discussion at the next round of the Dialogue Process with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty (Indus Waters Treaty 1960).